

# Project Proposal

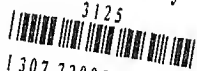
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TOTALITY OF CHANGE IN THE  
INDIAN VILLAGES :  
A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

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1. Title : Totality of Change in the Indian Villages

2. Research Problem : One of the requirements for the survival of the societies, irrespective of their principal characteristics, is to constantly change. This change itself is both transmitted where it occurs spontaneously on its own and transformed where it is planned, deliberate and organized by the state apparatus and/or other institutions. In the latter case, its direction, speed and intensity are manipulative and interventionistic in nature and quite often face the resistance - social, psychological and cultural - from various segments of the society. From time immemorial both types of changes have continued to occur together in almost all societies: only their respective share in bringing about the nature and quantum of change at various stage of a society's history has varied.

Post-independence periods in the erstwhile alien-ruled societies such as India provide a good historical cutting point for the analysis of change brought about in the structure and functioning of the system. Primarily, this is so because it is possible to correctly identify the objectives, thrust and instrumentalities of planned change initiated by the new governments.

Programmes of directed social change have been in operation

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since India became Independent on August 15, 1947. Village social systems have also registered both transmitted as well as transformed changes. At various points of time, social scientists have studied them. However, it is only on a very few rare occasions that the two have been studied together. Total change in the village social systems is aggregate of both transmitted and transformed changes. In order to study total change it is essential to know how the incidence of the two affects each other and what consequences flow therefrom. Such an analysis would provide sequencing of change events in relevant areas and indicate their significance. The present study is a very modest attempt in this direction.

3. Objectives : The following constitute specific objectives of the study :

- i. To examine the direction, texture, sequencing and amount of total change brought about at the family and village levels.
- ii. To identify interactional patterns of transmitted and transformed changes in terms of strategies and consequences.
- iii. To attempt a qualitative assessment of the direction and totality of change in the village social systems and detail its implications for future planning exercises.

4. Scope of Analysis : The study confines itself to the study of totality of change at two levels : familial and village social systems. Sequential data spread over a period of last 30 years would be used to locate the direction, texture, and amount of



total change in the Indian villages on the one hand and how the strategies of transmitted and transformed changes - the former operated by the individuals guiding the destinies of the families and the latter run largely by the state apparatus - affect each other. It is not claimed that within this framework totality of change in all the areas is covered : a modest study like the present one does not have such ambitious objective.

5. Major Issues For Analysis : The study would attempt to grapple with the following major issues :

- i. What is the direction of change brought about spontaneously and through the planned programmes of social change? Do the textures of these two display similarities in certain spheres and dis-similarities in certain others?
- ii. How have the strategies of two types of changes interacted with each other? What are the sequence of events in their interactional exchanges? What are their areas of congruence and divergence? How has one resisted/facilitated the other, if at all and with what outcomes? What specific processes have been in operation in facilitating adjustment and/or resistance?
- iii. What is the totality of change registered during the last 30 years? From the point of development, is it adequate at familial and village social system levels? Does the adequacy of change vary vis-a-vis different areas?
- iv. Whether the strategy followed in planning and administering the planned programmes has been appropriate in achieving the specified goals? What structural constraints continue to exist in the institutional set-up grafted on the colonial structure left behind by the British and continue to thwart dispensation of equality in the society? Based on 30 years' experience, what lessons could be drawn for planning and implementing future rural development programmes in India?

6. Sample and Methodology of Data Collection : To minimize cost and make optimum use of logistic support, the study would be conducted in one purposively selected district in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Total number of villages to be studied would be 9 : the selection of villages would be made keeping in view their size and accessibility, as shown in the sample design given below.

Sample Design

Population size of villages	<u>Accessibility of villages</u>			Total
	Isolated	Somewhat Accessible	Very Accessible	
Less than 500	1	1	1	3
500 - 999	1	1	1	3
1000 +	1	1	1	3
Total	3	3	3	9

From the selected villages, a 10% purposive sample of heads of households would be selected for detailed responses. The total number of respondents would depend upon the actual size of the villages ultimately selected for the study.

Data would be collected with the help of schedules - both structured and unstructured - from the heads of households and it would be cross-checked from alternate sources, particularly in regard to items concerning planned changes. Reconstruction of events would be undertaken by the perusal of records and dis-

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cussions with knowledgeable individuals. In many cases, of course, it would be based on recall.

7. Principal Variables : Since this is a study of totality of change, it would begin with a resume of the "bench mark" situation in case of each variable. It would be followed by the changes recorded during the last 30 years. The principal variables included at the two levels are :

a) Familial :

- i. Familial Resources, their build-up, deployment.
- ii. Use of resources of others (including clan, caste, community).
- iii. Educational, occupational, and social mobility.
- iv. Management of family, economic enterprises (including strategies).
- v. Life styles.
- vi. Attitudes, beliefs and behaviour structures (modernity attributes).

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b) Village Social Systems :

- i. Physical structure.
- ii. System integration (Dissension -- Cohesion).
- iii. Solidarity.
- iv. Collective approach to production systems and use of social services.
- v. Development, deployment and use of system resources.
- vi. Deviance.

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